

- (a) to enlist in active propaganda to impress the community at large and the educational fraternity in particular with the importance of science instruction;
- (b) to discuss and agree upon the aims of science instruction, their relative importance, and proper grade placement;
- (c) to discuss and agree upon the principles of selection of the subject-matter for the curriculum and the placement of this subject-matter in the various levels of the school;
- (d) to stimulate accurate scientific investigations along the above lines and also in the methods of teaching science;
- (e) to devise tests to determine in how far we are succeeding in accomplishing the desired aims of science teaching by the methods in vogue;
- (f) to employ a national secretary for part time at the outset and ultimately for all of his time who would extend the influence of the organization, make it efficient and coordinate the work of individual investigators along the above lines.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

DURING the past year biological investigations of the distribution and habits of the birds and mammals of the state of Washington have been continued by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State College of Washington, and the State Normal School, Bellingham, Washington. Early in July, 1920, there was begun a biological cross-section of the state, which, when completed, will extend from Bellingham on Puget Sound to the Pend d'Oreille country in the extreme northeastern corner of the state. During the summer season more than 200 miles were traversed by pack train in the northern Cascade Mountains, the party consisting of Professor Wil-

liam T. Shaw, State College of Washington; J. M. Edson, State Normal School, Bellingham, and George G. Cantwell and Dr. Walter P. Taylor, of the Biological Survey, the last named being in general charge of the work. During the fall months Mr. Cantwell continued the cross-section, making studies in the Okanogan Highlands just south of the Canadian boundary between Oroville and Marcus, Washington. Contrasts in the fauna and flora as thus far developed are marked, and indicate that when the work is completed, materials will be available for a significant treatment of an interesting ecologic transect. It is hoped to complete the field work in the state during the present year.

THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL CONDITIONS

THE Ecological Society of America's Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions has been listing and describing areas with original flora and fauna, preserved and desirable for reservation for scientific purposes, and is now just entering on the more extensive field work, with three additional joint chairman added. The plan of work and men in charge are as follows: Professor V. E. Shelford, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. (senior chairman, research and publication) is continuing preparation of the list which is to serve as a manual on natural areas with sections on the care, management and uses. R. B. Miller, state forester, Urbana, Ill. (chairman, publicity state organization) wishes to enlist the cooperation of one organization interested in science in each state and province. Dr. F. B. Sumner, Scripps Institution, La Jolla, Calif. (chairman, organization of research interests) is working on a union of research interests in natural areas, as represented by scientific societies, museums, and universities, into an organization to provide needed funds. C. F. Korstian, U. S. Forest Service, Ogden, Utah (chairman, Natural Areas in National Forests) is working on the selection of suitable natural areas which may be set aside within the existing national forest. Those having knowledge of areas preserved suitable for preservation, es-